

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 14141

FOR OES/ENT/IM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, JA
SUBJECT: GOJ'S BASIC POLICY FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT

1. ON JULY 28, THE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBMITTED A REPORT CONCERNING BASIC POLICY FOR ENERGY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IN
RESPONSE TO HIS INQUIRY OF MAY 1977. REPORT SET FORTH
BASIC POLICY FOR ENERGY R&D TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT
AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS AND IDENTIFIED
A TOTAL OF 26 R&D PROJECTS IN FOUR AREAS: NUCLEAR ENERGY,
FOSSIL ENERGY, NATURAL ENERGY, AND ENERGY UTILIZATION.

2. REPORT NOTED MAJOR ROLE PLAYED BY SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY IN SECURING ENERGY FOR STABLE GROWTH OF
ECONOMY AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL WELFARE. IT EMPHASIZED
THAT STEADY PROGRESS IN ENERGY R&D WOULD NOT ONLY MEET
DOMESTIC NEEDS BUT SATISFIES GLOBAL DEMAND THAT INDUS-
TRIALLY ADVANCED NATIONS EXERT EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD.
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REPORT URGED JAPAN TO JOIN OTHER INDUSTRIALLY ADVANCED
NATIONS IN ENDEAVORING TO CONDUCT ENERGY R&D COMMENSURATE
WITH ITS TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER. THE OUTCOME OF
SUCH ENDEAVORS, REPORT SAID, WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO
ECONOMIC SECURITY OF JAPAN WHICH LACKS NATURAL RESOURCES.

3. ALONG WITH DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, REPORT

STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN ENSURING DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY AND ITS EFFECTIVE APPLICATION AND FUNCTIONING. IT ALSO STRESSED TECHNOLOGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT.
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4. FOLLOWING IS OUTLINE OF REPORT:

A. PURPOSE OF PLAN: TO LAY DOWN BASIC POLICY FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO BE CARRIED OUT UNDER GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP WITH LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK ON ENERGY TRENDS IN JAPAN AND ABROAD.

B. PERIOD OF PLAN: NEXT TEN YEARS, LOOKING TOWARD THE 21ST CENTURY IN VIEW OF THE LONG-TERM NATURE OF ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

C. ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING IN CARRYING FORWARD ENERGY R&D: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY; PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION; SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ENERGY R&D; COLLABORATION AMONG GOVERNMENT, SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

D. AREAS OF ENERGY R&D CONSIDERED PROMISING AND REWARDING:
(1) NUCLEAR ENERGY -- NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION BY LIGHT
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WATER REACTORS SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON SAFETY. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON ADVANCED-TYPE REACTORS SHOULD BE PROMOTED TO ENSURE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF URANIUM RESOURCES. RESEARCH SHOULD ALSO BE CONDUCTED ON NUCLEAR FUSION WITH AN EYE TO ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY; (2) FOSSIL FUEL -- TO SECURE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, JAPAN SHOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND SLOPE AND IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS; (3) NATURAL ENERGY -- WITH REGARD TO SOLAR ENERGY, INITIAL EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD EARLY COMMERCIALIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY FOR UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR COOLING AND HEATING PURPOSES AND FOR HOT WATER SUPPLY PURPOSES. AS FOR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, COORDINATION MUST BE ACHIEVED BETWEEN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; (4) ENERGY UTILIZATION -- ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BE SECURED.
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E. THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SHOULD

BE DEVELOPED SYSTEMATICALLY BY CONCERTED EFFORTS OF
GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY:

(NUCLEAR ENERGY)
URANIUM REFINING AND CONVERSION
URANIUM ENRICHMENT BY CENTRIFUGE PROCESS
REPROCESSING OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

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TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES
PLUTONIUM PROCESSING AND HANDLING
ENGINEERING SAFETY RESEARCH ON LIGHT WATER REACTORS
ADVANCED CONVERTER REACTORS
FAST BREEDER REACTORS
MULTI-PURPOSE HIGH TEMPERATURE GAS REACTORS
NUCLEAR FUSION
NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS

(FOSSIL ENERGY)
GASIFICATION OF COAL
MANUFACTURE OF OLEFIN FROM HEAVY OIL
SEABOTTOM OIL PRODUCTION SYSTEM

(NATURAL ENERGY)
GEOTHERMAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
SOLAR HEAT AND LIGHT POWER GENERATION SYSTEM
WAVE POWER GENERATION
SOLAR HEAT COOLING AND HEATING AND HOT WATER SUPPLY

(ENERGY UTILIZATION)

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HYDROGEN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

DIRECT REDUCTION STEELMAKING USING HIGH-TEMPERATURE

REDUCING GAS

RESOURCES RECOVERY AND UTILIZATION TECHNOLOGY

ENERGY CONSERVATION HOUSING SYSTEM

WASTE HEAT UTILIZATION TECHNOLOGY

NATURAL ENERGY UTILIZATION IN AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
AND FISHERIES

5. R&D PROJECTS CITED IN REPORT ARE NOT NEW; THEY ARE
BEING UNDERTAKEN BY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH ENERGY. REPORT
ALSO DOES NOT REFER TO FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR CARRYING
OUT THE RECOMMENDED PROJECTS. THESE POINTS HAVE BEEN
SEVERELY CRITICIZED BY NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS. NEVERTHELESS,
NIHON KEISAI SHIMBUN WELCOMED THE REPORT IN THAT IT SERVES
TO FILL A SERIOUS GAP--THE LACK OF OVERALL AND BASIC
POLICY FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. YOMIURI SHIMBUN
DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE REPORT DOES NOT CONTAIN AN OVER-
ALL JUDGMENT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS TO HOW ENERGY R&D
SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT--HOW SOON AND WHAT KIND OF TECHNOLOGY
JAPAN NEEDS TO DEVELOP, AND HOW MUCH OF THE NATION'S
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPENDITURE SHOULD BE ALLOCATED
TO ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. MANSFIELD

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